FIRST COMICS
OCT 1987 / NO. 2
LIMITED SERIES
NO. 2 OF 6
$1.75 / $2.45 CANADA

MICHAEL MOORCOCK'S

Elric

the vanishing tower

ROY THOMAS AND JAN DUURSEMA

WHO ARE THESE GUYS, ANYWAY?

The Bright Empire of **Melniboné** stood for ten millennia. Ruled by sorcerer-kings, its emperors preserved and extended their power by pacts with the ancient gods of Chaos.

Last to sit on the Ruby Throne in Dreaming Imrryr was the albino, **Elric**. Weak and sickly, kept alive by sorcery and drugs, he was unlike his inhuman subjects for he possessed a con - science, though he often chose not to heed it.

When his throne was usurped by his mad cousin, **Yyrkoon**, and his beloved **Cymoril** placed in a sorcerous sleep, Elric was manipu - lated by the Chaos lord, **Arioch**, into claiming **Stormbringer**, one of the twin runeblades. With the sword, Elric needed no longer fear his weakness, for Stormbringer drank souls and would share its stolen life with him. So for vengeance and love, Elric lead an armada of the Young Kingdoms against Melniboné. But the gods betrayed him, for in destroying Yyrkoon he was also responsible, albeit unwillingly, for razing Imrryr and for Cymoril's death.

Now Elric — kinslayer, womanslayer and traitor — is a wanderer. Hated by his scattered subjects and feared by humans, his only companion is **Moonglum of Elwher**.

LAST ISSUE: Searching for the sorcerer **Theleb K'aarna**, Elric and Moonglum were captured by the shapeshifting Oonai. After invoking Fileet, Lady of the Birds, to rescue them, the companions reached the Castle at the World's End. There they found **Myshella**, the castle's mistress, under an enchantment. Unable to wake her, and fearing her resemblance to Cymoril, Elric fled...

Rick Obadiah, Publisher
Kathy Kotsivas, Operations Dir.
Kurt Goldzung, Sales Mgr.
Ralph Musicant, Finance Dir.

Rick Oliver, Editorial Director
Alex Wald, Art Director
Rich Markow, Ed. Coordinator
Rick Taylor, Production Mgr.

ELRIC: THE VANISHING TOWER™ Vol. 1, No. 2, October 1987. Published by FIRST COMICS, INC., OFFICE OF PUBLICATION: 435 N. LaSalle, Chicago IL 60610. Published bi-monthly.

Copyright © 1987 First Comics, Inc. and Star*Reach Productions. All rights reserved.

Adapted from the original novel by Michael Moorcock. Price: $1.75 in the U.S. Subscription rates for twelve issues: $21.00 in the U.S., $23.00 in Canada, and $40.00 foreign rate. All payments must be in U.S. funds. Elric — your #23 sun block has arrived. The stories, characters and incidents mentioned in this publication are entirely fictional. No actual persons, living or dead, without satiric content are intended or should be inferred. Elric and all prominent characters featured in this issue are trademarks of Michael Moorcock. Printed in the U.S.A
POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Elric, c/o First Comics, Inc., 435 N. LaSalle, Chicago IL 60610.

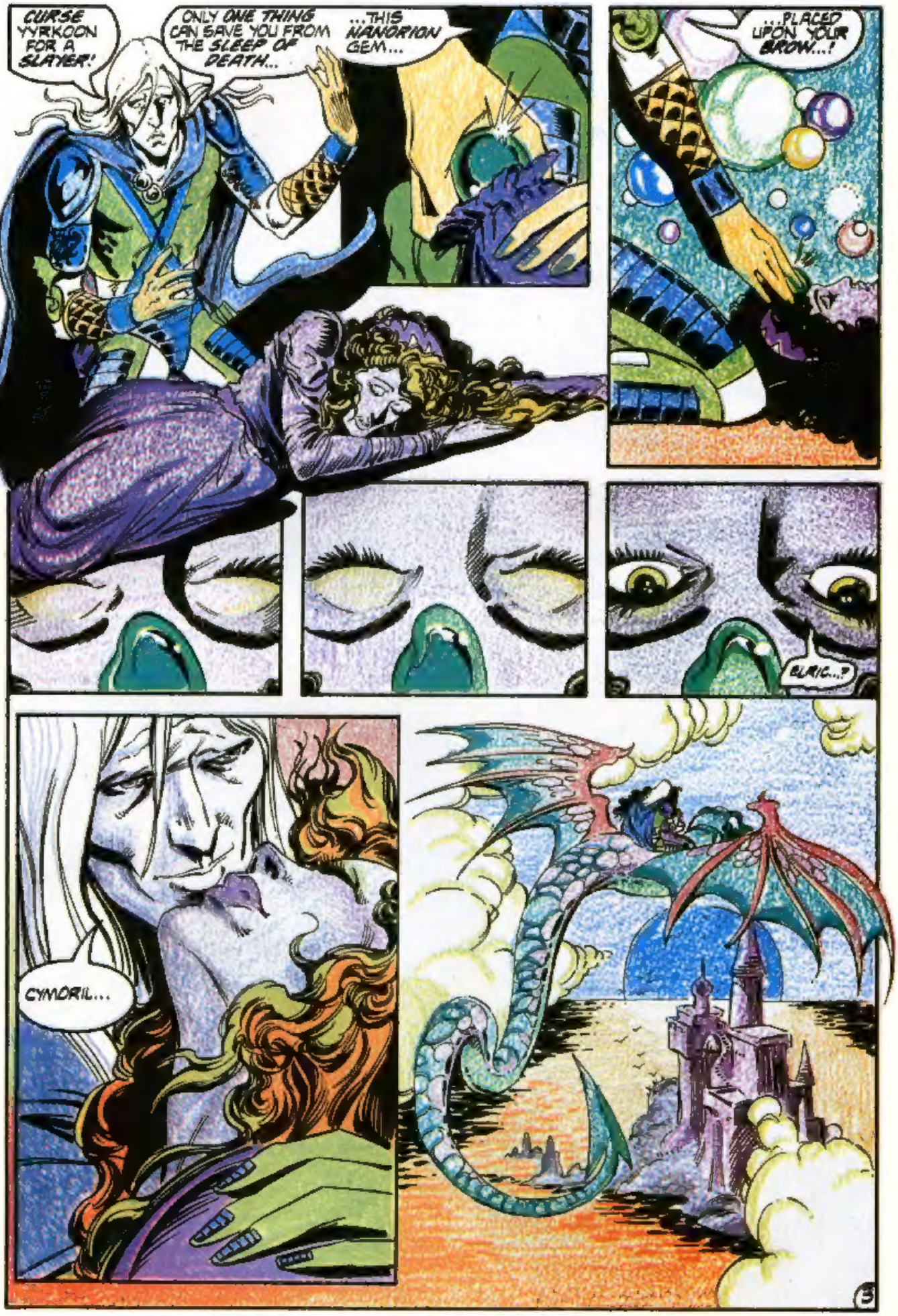
A FIRST COMICS PUBLISHING PRODUCTION

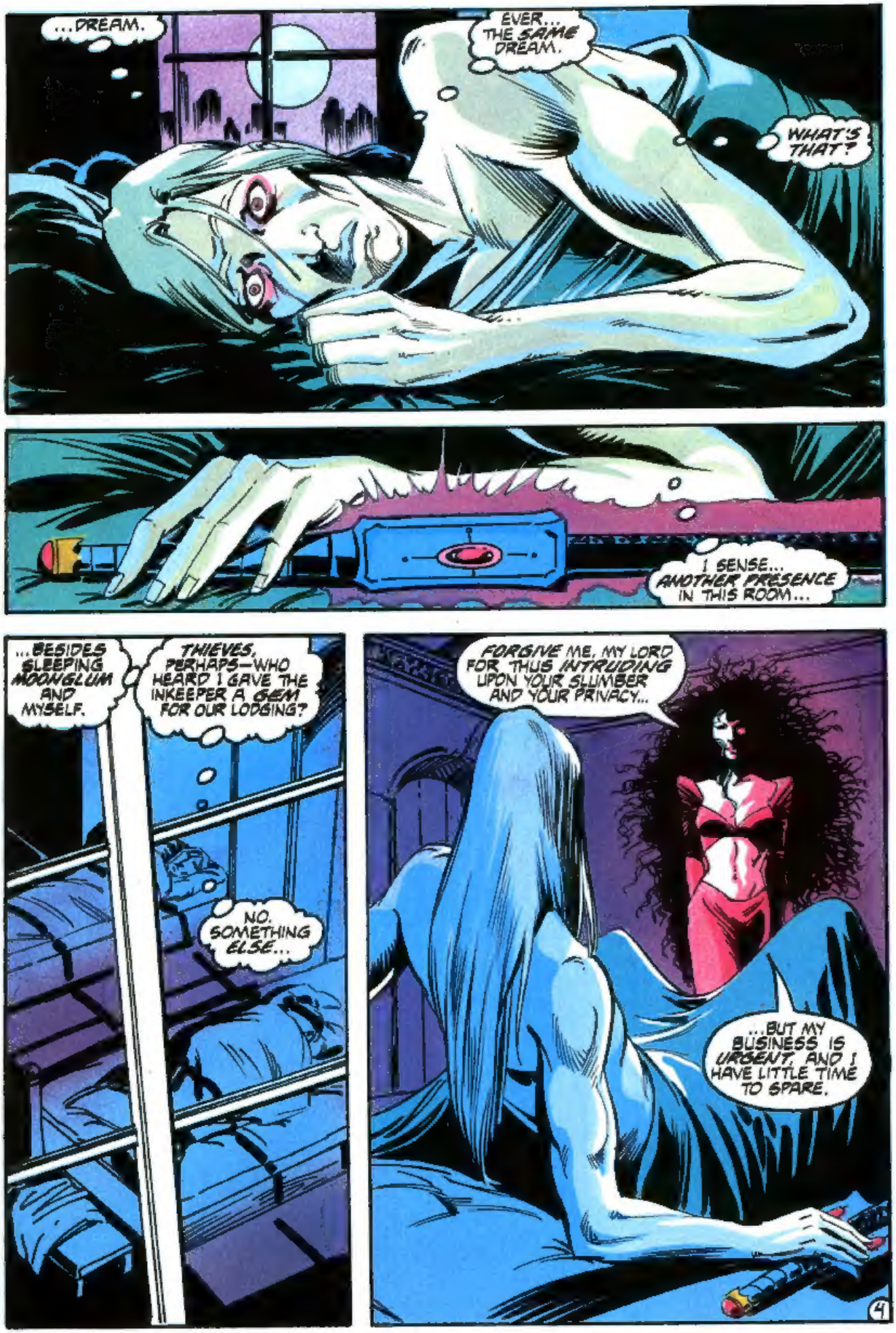
FOOL!
SLICE ME AS YOU WILL! I DRAW MY VITALITY FROM MY RUNE-CARVED BLADE--AS YOU DO FROM YOURS!
BUT, IF YOU REALLY WANT MY SISTER THAT MUCH--
NNOOO
--TAKE HER!

Doomed Lord Dreaming

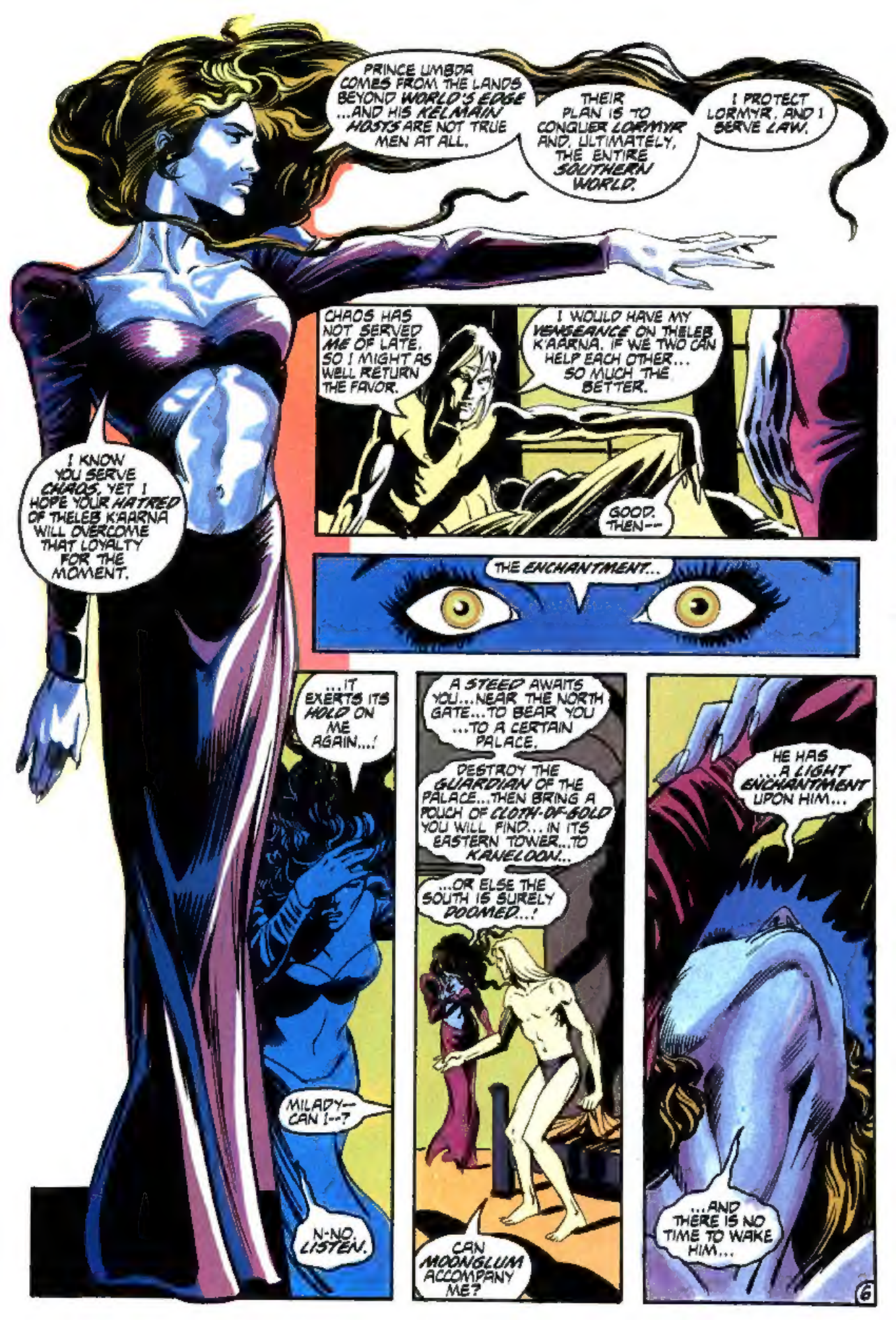
Continuing
The Adaptation of
MICHAEL MOORCOCK'S
The Vanishing Tower

by
Roy Thomas
scripter
Jan Duursema
illustrator
Carrie Spiegle
letterer
Lovern Kindzierski
colorist
Laurel Pitch
editor


CURSE YYRKOON FOR A SLAYER!
ONLY ONE THING CAN SAVE YOU FROM THE SLEEP OF DEATH...
...THIS NANORION GEM...
...PLACED UPON YOUR BROW...!
ELRIC...?
CYMORIL...


...DREAM.
EVER... THE SAME DREAM.
WHAT'S THAT?
I SENSE... ANOTHER PRESENCE IN THIS ROOM...
...BESIDES SLEEPING MOONGLUM AND MYSELF.
THIEVES, PERHAPS—WHO HEARD I GAVE THE INKEEPER A GEM FOR OUR LODGING?
NO. SOMETHING ELSE...
FORGIVE ME, MY LORD FOR THUS INTRUDING UPON YOUR SLUMBER AND YOUR PRIVACY...
...BUT MY BUSINESS IS URGENT, AND I HAVE LITTLE TIME TO SPARE.
4

YOU SEEM TO KNOW ME, MY LADY, BUT I DO NOT--
I AM MYSHELLA...
EMPRESS OF THE DAWN?
SOME HAVE NAMED ME THAT.
STILL OTHERS HAVE CALLED ME THE DARK LADY OF KANELOON.
SHE WHOM LORD AUBEC LOVED, IN AGES PAST? THEN YOU HAVE PRESERVED YOUR YOUTH CAREFULLY, LADY MYSHELLA.
NO DOING OF MINE, I ASSURE YOU.
I KNOW BUT ONE THING-- THAT TIME IS A DECEPTION.
WHY DO YOU COME TO ME THUS IN A VISION -- FOR ONLY SUCH COULD HAVE ENTERED THIS CHAMBER UNDETECTED?
I CANNOT STAY LONG. I HAVE COME TO SEEK YOUR AID, AGAINST A COMMON ENEMY.
THELEB K'AARNA?
THE SAME.
DID HE PLACE THE ENCHANTMENT UPON YOU THAT MADE YOU SLEEP, IN THE CASTLE WE HAPPENED UPON?
AYE.
AND HE SENT HIS FLYING OONAI AGAINST ME. THAT IS HOW--
NO. I SENT THE CHIMERÆ TO BRING YOU TO ME. I BATTLE THELEB K'AARNA'S SORCERY-- BUT IT IS STRONG, AND I CAN REVIVE MYSELF ONLY FOR BRIEF PERIODS.
HEAR ME, ELRIC! YOUR WIZARD FOE HAS JOINED FORCES WITH PRINCE LIMBOR, LORD OF THE KELMAIN HOSTS...
5


PRINCE UMBOR COMES FROM THE LANDS BEYOND WORLD'S EDGE ...AND HIS KELMAIN HOSTS ARE NOT TRUE MEN AT ALL.
THEIR PLAN IS TO CONQUER LORMYR AND, ULTIMATELY, THE ENTIRE SOUTHERN WORLD.
I PROTECT LORMYR, AND I SERVE LAW.
I KNOW YOU SERVE CHAOS, YET I HOPE YOUR HATRED OF THELEB K'AARNA WILL OVERCOME THAT LOYALTY FOR THE MOMENT.
CHAOS HAS NOT SERVED ME OF LATE, SO I MIGHT AS WELL RETURN THE FAVOR.
I WOULD HAVE MY VENGEANCE ON THELEB K'AARNA. IF WE TWO CAN HELP EACH OTHER... SO MUCH THE BETTER.
GOOD. THEN--
THE ENCHANTMENT...
...IT EXERTS ITS HOLD ON ME AGAIN...!
MILADY-- CAN I--?
N-NO. LISTEN.
A STEED AWAITS YOU...NEAR THE NORTH GATE...TO BEAR YOU ...TO A CERTAIN PALACE.
DESTROY THE GUARDIAN OF THE PALACE...THEN BRING A POUCH OF CLOTH-OF-GOLD YOU WILL FIND... IN ITS EASTERN TOWER...TO KANELOON...
...OR ELSE THE SOUTH IS SURELY DOOMED...!
CAN MOONGLUM ACCOMPANY ME?
HE HAS ...A LIGHT ENCHANTMENT UPON HIM...
...AND THERE IS NO TIME TO WAKE HIM...
6

...NO... TIMMMMM
BY ARIOCH!

WELL, I BEGAN ALL THIS UNQUESTIONINGLY. BEST, PERHAPS, TO COMPLETE IT IN THE SAME MANNER...
...UPON THE BACK OF AN EMERALD-EYED BIRD OF SILVER AND GOLD AND BRASS!
GREETINGS, MASTER.
YOU SPEAK AS WELL?
I AM COMMANDED TO TAKE THEE TO THE PALACE OF ASHNALOON.
WHEREVER YOU WILL. I AM AT THE MERCY OF YOU AND YOUR MISTRESS.
IS IT FAR, THIS CASTLE?
AN ISLAND IN THE BOILING SEA, UPON WHICH NO SHIPS GET SAIL.
SO I SEE. DO NOT DIP TOO LOW, BIRD. EVEN AT THIS HEIGHT, THE HEAT IS ALL BUT INTOLERABLE!
I'LL NOT FLY LOWER. IF I DID, I SHOULD MELT.
8

YONDER IS THE PALACE OF ASHANELOON, MASTER.
I FEAR THE THING YOU MUST MEET BEFORE OUR ERRAND IS DONE, SO I WILL AWAIT YOU ELSEWHERE.
IF YOU LIVE, I SHALL RETURN TO TAKE YOU BACK TO KANELOON.
IF YOU DIE, I WILL TELL MY MISTRESS OF YOUR FAILURE.
I SEEM TO HAVE ALIGHTED THE EASTERN TOWER, AT LEAST...
...BUT THE BIRD MADE ENOUGH NOISE THAT WHATEVER LURKS WITHIN, I CAN HOPE FOR NO ADVANTAGE OF SURPRISE.
STILL, PERHAPS I CAN COMPLETE MY QUEST WITHOUT THE NECESSITY OF FACING THE GUARDIAN OF THE PALACE.
HARROO.
AND PERHAPS..
...I CANNOT.
SO YOU ARE THE SLAVE OF THELES K'AARNA.
MUST I KILL YOU, OR WILL YOU LEAVE ME IN PEACE?
AARROOO
9

HNNKRRRR
I AM ELRIC OF MELNIBONÉ, LAST OF A LINE OF GREAT SORCERER KINGS... AND THIS BLADE I WIELD WILL DO FAR MORE THAN MERELY KILL YOU
IT WILL DRINK YOUR SOUL, AND FEED IT TO ME.
NOW BEGONE, IF YOU DO NOT WISH A TERRIBLE END FOR YOURSELF—
—AND AN EVEN MORE TERRIBLE VICTORY FOR ME!
RRARRG
SLASSHH
SO BE IT!
10

HARROOOO
SLAASSSH
THWAPP
UHHHN--!
A VERY NEAR THING, THAT.
BUT KNOW YOU, DEVIL--THAT I AM ELRIC--
--A CREATURE MORE DEMON THAN MAN!

FIRST NOTES

My recent ramblings about ratings systems seem to have generated some interesting reader response. So this month I thought I'd answer one particular letter that explores the issue in some depth. My apologies in advance for not running the the entire letter; but, hey, we've only got one page here.

Dear Mr. Oliver:

You state that First has a set of "guidelines" that prevent any "vulgarity" or "bad taste" from entering your comics. You claim to have no "ratings system" appearing on your comics' covers, and yet your "guidelines" could potentially have the same effect on your creative people as a ratings system would.

Your guidelines forbid, at least by implication, profanity, swearing, explicit sexual material or graphic violence, since none of these can be found on network television. First does not allow such material to appear in any of its books because, you imply, that such material automatically reduces a book to the above-mentioned vulgarity and/or bad taste. I have a great deal of difficulty with this view. To my mind, a good, intelligent comic may include any of these if it is necessary in the context of the story, and not merely gratuitous, and the comic would not degrade itself. Suppose that Howard Chaykin came to you and said that he wished to depict a graphic rape scene in a story in order to fully show what a brutal, disgusting act this is. According to your guidelines, you would forbid this.

This would be wrong. By doing this, you would be, in effect, altering the creative person's vision. You would be, in effect, degrading the work because it is no longer expressing your creative people's intent as to what it should represent. Instead, it would represent your, or Rick Obadiah's, personal view of what comics should be.

I collect many of your comics, and it would be hard for me to continue to buy your books if I thought you had interferred with the intentions of the creative people working on these titles. I greatly admire the work of Mike Baron, Steve Rude, Mike Grell, Howard Chaykin et al, and want to be secure that I am reading the full expression of their ideas, not those that they figure First would allow past its "guidelines," and certainly not those filtered through your personal views.

Steven Bence
391 Belsize Drive
Toronto, Ontario

You raise some interesting points, Steven; but you also make a lot of mistaken inferences. First of all, I never stated or meant to imply that our guidelines prevent vulgarity or bad taste from appearing in our books. Ultimately, those are judgments made in the mind of the individual reader. Our guidelines assure distributors, retailers, and consumers that our comics adhere to certain basic standards... kind of like knowing that when you pick up a copy of Newsweek, you won't open it to find a centerfold of naked ladies, St. Bernards and a vat of Wesson oil.

More importantly, our guidelines are nothing new, they have been in effect since our very first issue of our first title was published, almost five years ago. Whether or not these guidelines coincide with my "personal views" is irrelevant. These guidelines were determined by mutual agreement between the people who created this company. Everyone who chooses to bring their creative energies to First knows the ground rules going in. They are not arbitrarily imposed ex post facto.

Which brings me to my second point: publishing is a cooperative venture. Few comics are the expression of a single individual. Frequently there is a writer, a penciller, an inker, a letterer, a colorist, and finally, an editor. All these people work together. We work with our creative people to produce the best books we possibly can.

Finally, these guidelines only apply to our regular monthly and bi-monthly series. If Howard Chaykin, or anyone else, "wished to depict a graphic rape scene," in the context of a graphic novel, it is theoretically possible that we would go along with it. Personally, I might consider it offensive as hell, but it would not be within the scope of my position to "forbid" it. It would, however, be my responsibility to question the necessity of such a scene and to ask the creator to consider alternatives. To do any less would be a disservice to the creator, the public, and all the other products bearing the First logo.

— Rick Oliver

American Flagg! #45: Reuben returns to Chicago to avenge the death of Mandy Krieger. But first he has to help acting mayor and acting chief ranger Medea Blitz find out what stopped the food shipments from the Plex — and quell the riots by starving citizens that threaten to destroy the PlexMall and the city! By **Marc DeMatteis** and **Mark Badger**.

Badger #28: Badger gets hold of some "bad beer" and wakes up to find his alter-ego Pierre has taken over! Meanwhile the legendary Yeti is being chased by a mythical demon conjured by IBOB. By **Mike Baron** and **Bill Reinhold**. Deluxe series.

Dynamo Joe #12: The Alliance plans to capture the entire Mellenares fleet intact — but are they prepared to battle the enemy... in hyperspace? It may take a miracle to stop the Mellenares now — or maybe just Wolf-1. By **Phil Foglio**, **Doug Rice** and **Brian Thomas**. Now book-length adventures every month in a Deluxe series.

Elric: The Vanishing Tower #2: Continuing the adaptation of **Michael Moorcock's** novel. Elric, the sworn servant of Chaos, accepts a task for Law's sake — to recover a gem that can dispel any enchantment. By **Roy Thomas** and **Jan Duursema**. Deluxe, bi-monthly series.

Grimjack #39: Is it really "The Return of John Gaunt?" Grimjack is dead and buried. But there are those in Cynosure who would use his *body* to ruin everything that was close to Gaunt — starting with his best friend! Can anyone stop the onslaught of an *undead* Grimjack? By **John Ostrander** and **Tom Mandrake**. And Munden's Bar by **Will Shetterly** and **Gordon Purcell**.

Jon Sable, Freelance #52: Sable's lost both his new client *and* Eden Kenda I's son. Jon was supposed to be "babysitting," but Adam had other ideas. Now both kids are about to be found — and not by Sable! By **Mike Grell**, **George Booker** and **Val Mayerik**. Deluxe series.

Lone Wolf and Cub #2: Only the infant Daigoro — the Lone Wolf's cub — stands between his unconscious, defenseless father and an army of assassins determined to destroy the Lone Wolf. By **Kazuo Koike** and **Goseki Kojima**. Cover and introduction by **Frank Miller**. 64 pages, Black-and-white.

Nexus #37: Guest artist **Paul Smith** joins writer **Mike Baron** for a book-length adventure as Nexus returns to Chernenko to visit the "Priest." But religion has been outlawed on Chernenko, and the Sovs have no love for the "liberator" from Ylum. Deluxe Series.

Shatter #11: Shatter has the RNA of hundreds of experts in a wide variety of disciplines coursing through his brain. But he's also got a nose for trouble — that leads him right into a war for control of Daley City! By **Peter B. Gillis** and **Charlie Athanas**. Deluxe, bi-monthly series.

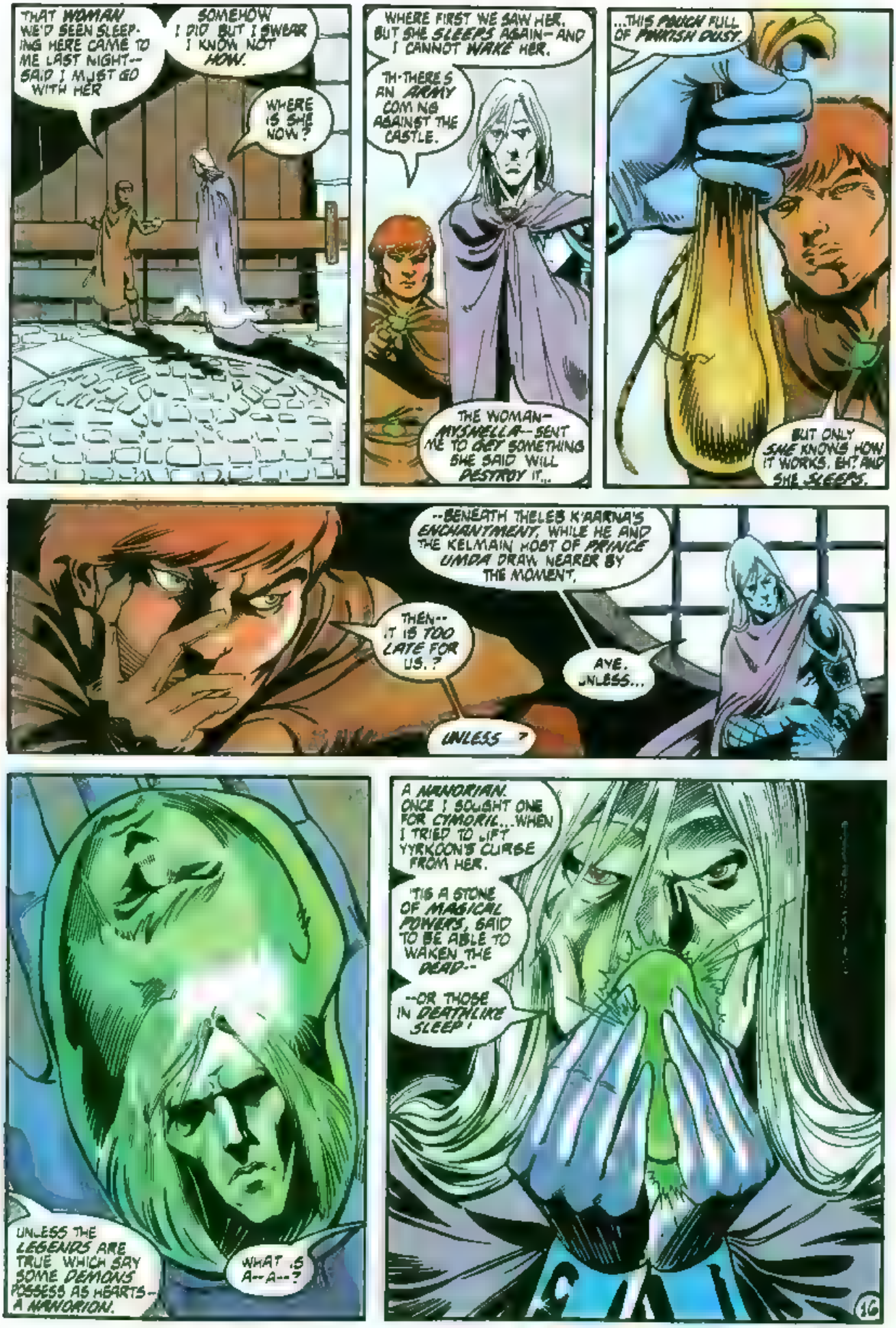
Whisper #9: The Conclusion to "City of Angels" as Cody Wyoming finds out more than he wanted to know about Diane Young; the Yakuza and the Mafia find out more than they wanted to know about their Bolivian partners, and Whisper takes on Carnicero, the head of the Bolivian drug smuggling empire! By **Steven Grant** and **Norm Breyfogle**. Now a Deluxe, bi-monthly series.

I AM ELRIC!
RRRRRR
HRROOOoo
ELRIC!
IT IS DONE.
YOUR SOUL POURS INTO ME NOW, DEVIL--

INTO ME!
INTO... M-ME...

LATER, WITHIN THE EASTERN TOWER.
AH.
THE CLOTH-OF-GOLD POUCH!
MY VENGEANCE, PERHAPS, ON MY WIZARD FOE!
WE MUST MAKE HASTE MASTER.
YES...
IS SOMETHING WRONG, MASTER? YOU SEEM...
NAUSEOUS? YOU ARE SHARP-EYED BIRD.
THE LIFE FORCE OF SUCH AS YON DEMON-SLAVE MUST SURELY BE TAINTED BEYOND ALL—
HOLD
WHAT IS T MASTER?
SOMETHING, AMID THE MOLDERING CORPSE
NOW WE MAY GO.
THE HEART OF THE THING...STILL PULSING
ANOTHER ITEM FOR MY NEWFOUND POUCH.
AH, WHAT AGONY IS THIS LFE!
14

TO KANELOON THEY COME IN THE EARLY DAWN..
SEE YOU YONDER ARMY DARKENING THE SNOW, MASTER?
THE KELMAIN HOST, DOUBTLESS—MARCHING AGAINST YOUR MISTRESS LONELY CASTLE.
MYSHELLA.
TRUMP
MYSHELLA!
DAMN YOU! HAVE YOU FALLEN INTO YOUR DARK SLUMBER AGAIN?
THUMP
THUMP
GREETINGS, FRIEND ELRIC.
MOONSLUM!? HOW COME YOU HERE?
15


THAT WOMAN WE'D SEEN SLEEPING HERE CAME TO ME LAST NIGHT--SAID I MUST GO WITH HER
SOMEHOW I DID BUT I SWEAR I KNOW NOT HOW.
WHERE IS SHE NOW?
WHERE FIRST WE SAW HER. BUT SHE SLEEPS AGAIN--AND I CANNOT WAKE HER.
TH-THERE'S AN ARMY COMING AGAINST THE CASTLE.
THE WOMAN--MYSHELLA--SENT ME TO GET SOMETHING SHE SAID WILL DESTROY IT...
...THIS POUCH FULL OF PINKISH DUST.
BUT ONLY SHE KNOWS HOW IT WORKS, EH? AND SHE SLEEPS.
--BENEATH THELEB K'AARNA'S ENCHANTMENT, WHILE HE AND THE KELMAIN HOST OF PRINCE UMDA DRAW NEARER BY THE MOMENT.
THEN--IT IS TOO LATE FOR US.?
AYE. UNLESS...
UNLESS ?
UNLESS THE LEGENDS ARE TRUE WHICH SAY SOME DEMONS POSSESS AS HEARTS--A NANORION.
WHAT IS A--A--?
A NANORIAN. ONCE I SOUGHT ONE FOR CYMORIL...WHEN I TRIED TO LIFT YYRKOON'S CURSE FROM HER.
'TIS A STONE OF MAGICAL POWERS, SAID TO BE ABLE TO WAKEN THE DEAD--
--OR THOSE IN DEATHLIKE SLEEP!
16

NOW I UNDERSTAND WHY SO MANY SHIELDS AND WEAPONS DECORATE HER CHAMBER!
ACCORDING TO LEGEND, THEY BELONGED TO ALL THOSE WHO LOVED MYSHELLA, AND CHAMPIONED HER CAUSE!
AYE. SHE WAS EVER AN ENEMY OF MELANDIANE. WAS THE EMPRESS OF THE DAWN
NOW WE SHALL SEE IF THIS THING I TOOK FROM THELEB K'AARNA'S OWN DEMON—
—WILL PROVE HIS UNDOING!
SHE. .SHE DOES NOT STIR.
THERE IS A RUNE...BUT I REMEMBER IT NOT
WE CAN ASK THELEB K'AARNA, PERHAPS. HE WILL BE HERE SOON ENOUGH
I...REMEMBER IT NOT...
UH. .I'VE BUSINESS BELOW.
CALL OUT TO ME. SHOULD YOU REQUIRE MY HELP.
17

GODS-- HELP ME!
HELP ME REMEMBER!
BUT YOU WON'T HELP ME WILL YOU? NAY, YOU LORDS OF CHAOS WILL HINDER ME IF YOU CAN--
FOR MYSHELLA HAS EVER BEEN ONE OF THE CHIEF INSTRUMENTS OF LAW UPON THE EARTH--
INDEED, SHE, MORE THAN ANY, DID DRIVE CHAOS FROM THE WORLD IN DAYS OF OLD--
--BY MEANS OF SPELLS WHICH-- YES!
I REMEMBER NOW! THE RUNE!
IT IS... FINISHED.
AND STILL SHE SLEEPS.
18

THEN, THERE IS NAUGHT TO DO BUT REPEAT IT, UNTIL—
ELRIC! WE ARE INVADED! THEIR ADVANCE RIDERS—!
WHAT?
A DOZEN OF THEM— I FOUGHT THEM OFF AND BARRED THEIR WAY HERE BUT EVEN NOW THEY HACK AT THE DOOR.
THEY HAVE BEEN SENT TO SLAY MYSHELLA.
THELEB K'AARNA WORKED HIS SORCERY FROM A DISTANCE, ENSURING THAT SHE WOULD NOT RESIST HIM...
KKRRAAK
...BUT HE DID NOT RECKON WITH US!
HMMM
STAND BACK, LITTLE FRIEND—
MY SWORD HAS A SONG TO SING!
19

SO YOU ARE THE MIGHTY KELMAIN!
SMALL WONDER YOU NEEDED SORCERY TO AID YOU, COWARDS!
HAVE YOU NOT HEARD, BEYOND WORLD'S EDGE, OF ELRIC KINSLAYER!
THEY DON'T UNDERSTAND THE COMMON TONGUE, LORD ELRIC. GODS LOOK AT THEM—GOLDEN FACES, CHISELED AS IF FROM ROCK--
THEY SEEM NOT EVEN HUMAN!
THEY...ARE NOT, MOONGLUM.
THEY ARE NOT!!
HAHAHA
HAHAHA

MMMMMMM
HAHAHAHA
THELEB K'AARNA!
THELEB K'AARNA!!

WHY, LOOK YOU, PRINCE UMBDA! 'TIS THE JACKAL OF MELNIBONÉ!
KNEEL BEFORE ME, ELRIC!
KNEEL BEFORE ME--HERE!
BY CHARDROS, MAN--STOP! IF YOU HAVE COME TO BARGAIN, YOU ARE A FOOL!
I DID NOT COME TO BARGAIN.
Y-YOU CANNOT DEFEAT THE ENTIRE KELMAIN HOST!
I HAVE NO WISH TO, THELEB K'AARNA.
YOUR LIFE IS ALL I DESIRE.
22

WELL, YOU-- YOU SHALL NOT HAVE IT.
HA! MEN OF THE KELMAIN!
TAKE HIM!
ELRIC--
--WE'LL DIE TOGETHER!
I TOLD YOU TO STAY BACK, MOONGLUM!
BUT I--
IF YOU LOVE ME-- GO BACK!
YOU SAVED YOUR FOOLISH FRIEND'S LIFE ELRIC-- FOR THE MOMENT.
NOW LAY DOWN YOUR SWORD, AND PERHAPS YOU SHALL EVEN SPARE YOURSELF-- WELL, NOT DEATH, CERTAINLY-- BUT MAYHAP A GOOD BIT OF PAIN!
IF I CAN STAND THE TORTURE OF MERELY LIVING, CONJURER--
23

--WHAT OTHER PAIN COULD EVER AFFRIGHT ME?
AHHHHHH
WELL, CREATURES OF THE KE..MA.N? WOULD YOU ADD TO THIS GRISLY MOUND?
THEN COME AHEAD!
TAKE HIM!
YOU HEARD HIM, DOGS!
TAKE ME!
24

THE KELMAIN FALL. SWORD—AND YET, FEWER OF THEM PERISH WITH EACH STROKE. WHY?
DAMN YOU, STORMBRINGER--
MMMMMM
--GIVE ME YOUR POWER, THAT I MAY FEED YOU SOULS!
YOU ARE.. SATED.. AREN'T YOU, BLADE?.
YOU DESIRE NO MORE SOULS...
...AND SO HAVE LEFT ME TO WAKEN FROM MY BERSERKER BLOOD-DREAM..
...ALONE
SHSHSH
25

THRAKK
AARRR
HE IS OURS...
NEXT: A GREAT HOST SCREAMING

Melnibonéan Mailbox!

[illegible] N. LASALLE, CHICAGO, IL 60610

Dear Editors,

I much enjoy your adaptation of Elric: Weird of the White Wolf. I don't agree with the shifting of art from Gilbert/Freeman to Russell and back. Though Russell's art excellently captures the despair of Elric, much of his art seems somewhat out of context. In particular, I don't like his drawing of Moonglum. His art portrays Moonglum as a smooth, well favored youth with good looks. Freeman's art shows the flat, broad features and the rough-ness of Moonglum accurately. I must say I disagree with the opinion of Mr. Stuart D. Hender-son on the drawing of Elric. In his novels, Moorcock clearly defines the Melnibonéans as having tapered skulls, almond shaped eyes, and tapered ears lying flat against the skull. To be frank, this is the classic elf. Another problem with your adaptation is the flaming orange hair you give Yyrkoon. In *Elric of Melniboné*, Yyrkoon is said to have black hair, long with oil and perfume.

The script has been excellent so far, and I hope the writing staff keeps up the good work. Some excellent comics with fabulous art are ruined by poor scripts. I am happy to say that this is not the case with Elric. I hope your future teams of artists capture Elric's grim despair as well as P. Craig Russell, while managing to keep the minor characters conforming with Moorcock's descriptions of them.

Something which I think would make an excellent graphic novel is an adaptation of Michael Moorcock's *Glorianna*. I hope the quality of your work stays at the level it is at.

T. Shaw
810 Brooklyn Avenue
Oakland, CA 94606

Dear Laurel,

I'm really enjoying the adap - tation of the Michael Moorcock novels you guys at First are doing and I am wondering if it is possible to see some comic-adaptations of other authors.

I would love to see *The Chronicles of Thomas Covenant* series by Stephen R. Donaldson and the *Dragonriders of Pern* by Anne McCaffery adapted into comic form. I've been really impressed with the quality of work that has gone into the Elric, Hawkmoon, and Corum titles and feel that First Comics is the only company that can really do justice to the Donaldson and McCaffery books.

I would really appreciate it if you could let me know if there's any possibility of a comic adap - tation of these books. Thanks for listening.

J. Simmons
26980 SW 45th Drive
Willsonville, OR 97070

With every batch of letters that arrive, there's a slew of requests for First to add this book or that to our present adaptations. Next time let's try something different — which are the books you'd absolutely hate to see adapted. Aquinas' Summa Theologica, *anyone? Or perhaps* Physics is Fun*? How about my personal favorite,* The Red Badge of Courage, *which I had to read three times in the course of my educational career. Hey, we're on a roll, now...*

Dear Laurel,

I read your note which said that issue 5 of Elric: Weird of the White Wolf was the last issue in which Michael T. Gilbert would be able to draw. I would just like to take this opportunity to say thank you to Mr. Gilbert, George Freeman, and Ken Bruzenak for delivering one of the most visually pleasing and exotic comic books of the 1980s. With the help from P. Craig Russell, I have enjoyed Moorcock's adaptations from their days at Pacific Comics. They will be missed and their work in Elric will be remembered (it sound's like they died!)

P.S. Good luck with Mr. Monster.

Christopher Romano
16907 Avenida de Santa Ynez
Pacific Palisades, CA 90272

Thank you from ***P. Craig Russell, Michael Gilbert and Ken Bruzenak****, and you're welcome.*

When I asked for information on Hawkwind in the last lettercol, little did I suspect just how much I would get. Below, for those of you who are also interested, is basic info on the records, the band, ***Michael Moorcock****, and places to start your own research. My many thanks to all who took the time to write.*

Hello Folks at First,

To start out, all your Moorcock stories are great, all of the highest quality. These have renewed my interest in comics (I'm 31) and being a fan of Moorcock, this is very good.

I could expand on the above but what spurred me to write was this: in the first issue of the Vanishing Tower series the letter from Rob Taggart made reference to Moorcock having co-author credits on the song Black Blade on Blue Öyster Cult's, *Cultosaurus Erectus* LP I like the song and Mr. Taggart and myself agree it's unmistakably about Elric. At the end of the letter you mention Moorcock being a member of Hawkwind and if he is still with the band, what instrument, etc.

I hope I can be of help. I have collected records for over 15 years now and have over 50 Hawkwind records, singles, picture disks, and solo projects. I'll list here what I have in the LPs [Moorcock] is on and what he is credited with. First off, as far as I know, he still is involved

with the band now, over the years it's been an on and off thing. Here is what I have in my collection.

Live Chronicles (two LPs, GWR Records, released '86, recorded live on '85 tour). A song here, "Choose Your Masks," gives co-author credit to Moorcock, but the original LP of the same name (RCA '82), makes no mention of Moorcock.

Chronicles of the Black Sword (Flicknife Records, 1985) "Sleep of a 1000 Tears," give Moorcock co-author credit. Entire LP is based on Elric books with thanks given to Moorcock.

Friends and Relations, Volume One (Flicknife Records 1982). Two songs are under the title of Michael Moorcock Deep Fix — "Good Girl, Bad Girl," and "Time Centre." He is also shown as vocalist here.

Sonic Attack (RCA Records,1981). Song credits: "Sonic Attack," "Psychosonia," "Coded Languages" with vocal credit and "Lost Chances."

Hawkwind & Co.: Last Chance E.P. (Flicknife, 1983). "Dodgem Dude" appears here under Michael Moorcock's Deep Fix, originally released 1980.

Warriors on the Edge of Time (United Artists, 1975). On the songs "The Wizard Blew His Horn" and "Warriors," he is shown with vocals. "Standing at the Edge" and "Kings of Speed," he is author or co-author. Also "Kings of Speed" was one of the most successful songs ever by the band. This LP is also recommended.

Space Ritual (live, two LPs, United Artist 1973, recorded 1972). Co-author credits here for "The Black Corridor" and "Sonic Attack." A great LP .

Well, there you have it, I hope it satisfies some of your curiousity. The first two LPs I listed should be easy to get, you might have to special order them because they are imports, the rest you might have to search for in the used record stores. If you don't have any luck, those interested can write as I know several people who can help.

Lonnie Pool
4901 Colfax Avenue
Lincoln, NE 68504

Dear Laurel,

I'm a Ph.D. candidate in English at UCLA, and I've been following the Moorcock comics since Pacific Comics began Elric a few years ago. I became a Moorcock aficionado over ten years ago, and I now have 65 volumes of his fiction and essays. Since you asked, I thought I might supply you with some information about Moorcock's association with rock music.

One of the letters in Elric: Vanishing Tower #1 points out that Moorcock co-wrote "Black Blade" on BÖC's 1980 *Culto - saurus Erectus;* the song is obviously about not only Elric, but the entire Eternal Champion Cycle, of which Elric, Hawkmoon and Corum are sections. Moorcock also co-wrote the songs "The Great Sun Jester" (based on a character in his novel The Winds of Limbo and one of the short stories in Legends from the End of Time), which appeared on BÖC's *Mirrors* LP, and "Veteran of the Psychic Wars" (from the film Heavy Metal), which BÖC performed on *Fire of Unknown Origin.*

Moorcock's work with Hawk - wind is larger in volume, but harder to find in the U.S. He helped write and sang many of the songs on their *Warriors at the Edge of Time*, and *Sonic Attack* albums, and performed with his own group, the Deep Fix (named after one of his stories in The Time Dweller), on the Hawkwind album *Friends and Relations* . Hawkwind's most recent album is *The Chronicle of the Black Sword* , and although Moorcock didn't help with the record, it has his approval. The album tells the story of the first and last Elric volumes Elric of Melniboné and Stormbringer, in a highly con - densed form (and also includes a single about Jerry Cornelius, Moorcock's James Bond ho - mage /parody). Moorcock is reported to have released an album of his own entitled, *New Worlds Fair,* but I have not been able to obtain a copy of it.

Moorcock writes very fre - quently about rock music. The Cornelius books are full of 60s bands, especially the Beatles and Jimi Hendrix (he also wrote a short story about the resurrection of Hendrix called "The Dead Singer"). He novelized the Sex Pistols movie The Great Rock and Roll Swindle; members of the group Motorhead (an offshoot of Hawkwind) appear in The Entropy Tango. Like several of his characters, Moorcock is a blues guitarist, but I have yet to hear him play guitar on record. All of my albums with him on them credit him only with vocals.

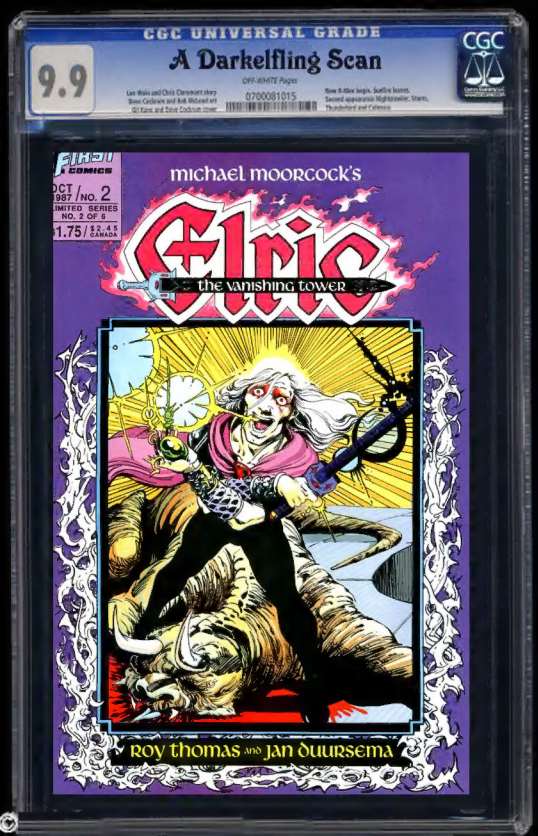
Hope I've been of assistance.

Tim Murphy
1233 1/2 South Orlando
Los Angeles, CA 90035

So many of you wrote in with information about Hawkwind, Deep Fix, etc., I'll try to run more of your exhaustive research next time.

NEXT ISSUE: Elric has been captured by his old enemy, Theleb K'aarna, and a terrible vengeance is taken — but whose? By **Roy Thomas** and **Jan Duursema.**

Enjoy your 4th. —Laurel Fitch



A Darkelfling scan

For the Love of Comics.....

DCP - Digital Comics Preservation

To Preserve and Protect.....

Elric: The Vanishing Tower #2
First Comics